

**Nevada Department of Education
Advisory Council on Parental Involvement and Family Engagement
Thursday, July 9, 2015 — 9:00 A.M.**

Meeting Locations: Las Vegas, NV
Department of Education
9890 South Maryland Pkwy
Board Room

and

Carson City, NV (via Video Conference)
Department of Education
700 East Fifth Street
Board Room

MINUTES

Agenda Item #1 - Call to Order; Roll Call; Pledge of Allegiance

Denette Corrales, Council Chair

9:14 am Chair Corrales called meeting to order. Roll call completed as indicated with a quorum present. Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Members Present

Denette Corrales, Chair

Stavan Corbet (arrived 11:04 am)

Jennifer Hoy

Kelcey West

Teresa Benitez-Thompson (left 11:18 am)

Patricia Farley

Nick Smith

Stacie Wilke

Members Absent

Billiejo Hogan

Adriane Zaniewski

NDE Staff Members

Dena Durish, Deputy Superintendent

Greg Ott, Deputy Attorney General

Janie Lowe, NDE Director

Rose Avila, Education Programs Professional

Laurie Hamilton, Administrative Assistant

Vickie Blakely, Education Program Professional

Members of Public

Jason Lambreth, Parent

Hergit "Coca" Llenes, PEF

David Blodgett, PEF

Eva Melendez, CCSD FACES

Dahlia Flores, PTA

Leticia Serun, Carson City School PTA

Agenda Item #2 - Public Comment #1

Public Comment will be taken during this agenda item regarding any item appearing on the agenda. No action may be taken on a matter discussed under this item until the matter is included on an agenda as an item on which action may be taken. The secretary of the Advisory Council on Parental Involvement and Family Engagement will impose a time limit of three minutes. Public Comment #2 will provide an opportunity for public comment on any matter within the Council's jurisdiction, control or advisory power.

Chair Corrales opened the floor for public comment in Carson City and then Las Vegas. No public comment was offered.

Agenda Item #3 - Approval of Flexible Agenda

(For Possible Action), Denette Corrales, Council Chair

Member West – Motioned to approve flexible agenda.

Member Farley – Seconded the motion.

Chair Corrales – Called for the vote. Motion approved unanimously.

Chair Corrales - Rescheduled the agenda to maintain quorum by moving Agenda Items PIFE Policy Work Session, Public Education Foundation Presentation, NV Department of Education. Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement Updates.

Agenda Item #4 - Approval of Council Meeting Minutes May 22, 2015

(Information/Discussion/For Possible Action), Denette Corrales, Council Chair

Member Wilke – Made motion to approve PIFE meeting minutes of May 22, 2015.

Member Hoy – Seconded the motion.

Chair Corrales – Called for the vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - Parental Involvement and Family Engagement (PIFE) Policy Work Session (Original Agenda Item #9) Discussion and possible recommendation regarding PIFE policy language for proposal to the State Board of Education. *(Information/Discussion/Possible Action)* Denette Corrales, Council Chair

Chair Corrales – Asked members to view Attachment #9 Draft: Parent Involvement Policy. She stated that the document was based on the Council's review of the USC presentation of different states' policies on parent involvement. Chair Corrales asked for any member questions. Hearing none, she then read the current policy draft as required by NRS 392.457. (See Attachment #9 Draft: Parent Involvement Policy for details).

Chair Corrales then asked members to read the second Attachment #9 which contained the currently posted parent policies in each of the NV school districts. She asked members to review each of the NV districts' policies for any language from these policies to be added to the new NV Parent Involvement Policy. She also noted for the record that each district policy was being reviewed by the Council to make recommendations to their parent involvement coordinators for possible amendments. (See Attachment #9 PowerPoint for details of each district parent engagement policy.)

Carson City SD: Recommended for addition to state policy – use of the word “expectations” of families for school participation; no recommendations to Carson City SD for changes.

Clark County SD: No additions to state policy or changes / recommendations made to CCSD policy.

Churchill County SD: Recommended for addition to state policy Standard #6 - schools will 1) use and collaborate with community organizations to “develop resources” for participation in and enhancement of school activities; 2) “purposeful” engagement and development of school committees for academic improvement as well as social involvement in schools; (Note: there was some discussion as to whether or not this item was a revision to Standard #5 or #6). There were no changes or recommendations to Churchill SD for amendments.

Douglas County SD: No additions to state policy or changes/recommendations made to DCSD policy.

Elko Co. SD: Initial research indicated that there was no parent policy on their website, which was mistaken. There is a parent involvement policy. No additions to state policy or changes / recommendations made to ECSD policy.

Esmeralda County SD: It was confirmed that Esmeralda Co. SD does not have a parent involvement policy on their website.

Eureka County SD: There was member discussion about Eureka's use of a specific reference to technology in their resource section. It was decided that it was not necessary to specifically add technology to Council draft policy language. No changes/recommendations to ECSD policy.

Humboldt County SD: Dena Durish, NDE advised that the Humboldt Co. SD website is down and their parent involvement policy information will be updated at a later time.

Lander County SD: No additions to state policy or changes / recommendations made to Lander Co. SD policy.

Lincoln County SD: No additions to state policy or changes / recommendations made to Lincoln Co. SD policy.

Lyon County SD: Member discussion centered about the idea that this policy seems to be LCSD's Parent-School Compact. It was verified that it appeared to be the same document. Member commented that the policy / document was onerous on the parent, recognizing the language from the compact the parent signs at the first of the year. Parent involvement is more about being proactive and how the school is to create an environment that

is more welcoming and engaging parents in an organic way and not just a “to-do” list. Members decided not to make any changes to the Council draft.

Mineral County SD: No additions to state policy or changes/recommendations made to MCSD policy.

Nye County SD: Chair Corrales stated that the Nye Co. SD website was very parent friendly and has many parent involvement activities. She added that she could not, however, locate a parent involvement policy.

Pershing County SD: Chair Corrales noted that when she accessed the English link on their website, it is in Spanish; as is the Spanish link.

Storey County SD: Did not have a parent involvement policy posted to their website.

Washoe County SD: No additions to state policy or changes/recommendations made to Washoe Co. SD policy.

White Pine County SD: No additions to state policy or changes/recommendations made to White Pine Co. SD policy.

Chair Corrales - Noted that the Council draft policy was created in alignment with the six standards and it appeared that most of the counties did the same. She found that encouraging. She asked if the policy draft revisions were captured to be read for a possible motion. Member Hoy responded that the changes were in Standards #5 and #6, as detailed below.

Standard #5: Sharing Power – “Parents, families, and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.”

- Bullet #1 remains the same.
- “The schools encourage families to become active participants in the school culture at the local and district level. Schools develop resources to encourage purposeful involvement in parent advisory groups, school board meetings, school functions and activities.”

Standard #6: Collaborating with the Community – “Parents, families, and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expand learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation. The teacher and school staffs communicate with families about services, resources to make referrals to programs, and plan activities that expand learning opportunities.

- (Change to Bullet 1)
“Schools develop resources to purposefully include and collaborate with community organizations to participate in classrooms, school events, and activities.

Chair Corrales - Asked for further comments. Hearing none, she called for a motion to recommend that the policy draft be presented to the State Board of Education for adoption.

Member Hoy – Made a motion that the draft policy be presented to the State Board of Education for adoption.

Member Farley – Seconded the motion.

Chair Corrales – Asked for further comment about the motion. Hearing none, she called for the vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Dena Durish asked if someone from the PIFE Council would like to present this item to the State Board of Education on September 3, 2015.

Chair Corrales – Moved discussion to Item #7 Public Education Foundation presentation.

Agenda Item #6 - Public Education Foundation Presentation (Original Agenda Item #7) The Public Education Foundation will provide an overview of the programs and partnerships it leverages to increase family learning in Southern Nevada, which will include information about the Foundation and Nevada PTA sharing correlation data between school performance (NSPF Star Rating) and PTA membership.

(Information/Discussion) David Blodgett, Director of Grants, Public Education Foundation, and Hergit Llenas, Director of Family Learning, Public Education Foundation

David Blodgett and Hergit Coco Llenas spoke on behalf of the Public Education Foundation (PEF). David Flatt, NV PTA also joined Mr. Blodgett and Ms. Llenas to answer any questions in regard to the data presented. The purpose of their work was to do a better job of defining what good family engagement looks like, quantify what parent engagement is in different schools in NV, how is PTA membership correlated to student achievement, and an overview of some of their family learning and engagement programs built on the Toyota Family Learning and the Family Center for Family Learning model. They reviewed the information from their presentation materials. (See Attachment #7 for details.) Council members were given the opportunity to ask questions of the presenters.

Chair Corrales – Called for a 10 minute break.

Agenda Item #7 - Nevada Department of Education Updates (Original Agenda Item #5) Information and discussion about the Nevada Department of Education's goals, policies/procedures, and/or current work. *(Information/Discussion)* Dena Durish, Director, NDE Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement Division

Chair Corrales – Called the meeting back to order after the break.

Dena Durish – Presented a detailed overview of the NV Department of Education (NDE) updates, which were predominately legislative based on the 2015 session. Ms. Durish reviewed the updates to the NDE website which detail recent legislation, its impact, and on-going activities and updates relating to education. She reviewed the materials provided. (See Attachment #5 for details.) Members asked questions and were encouraged to follow education issues on the website as they progress.

Janie Lowe, NDE Director Office of Student and School Support – Stated that there are parent involvement requirements within their work, particularly with the Read by Three program, Zoom, and Victory Schools. She provided a detailed background of the parent engagement requirements, options, strategies, differences in the requirements between Victory and Zoom schools, and funding for these school programs. She stressed the importance of family involvement in all areas from the required initial needs assessments to implementation in support of student achievement. Rose Avila suggested that if Council members want to participate in the parent involvement work with the districts, that they contact them directly. Ms. Lowe was then asked to provide information about the Read by Three Program. She described the current status of the program as implementation begins.

Vickie Blakely, NDE Education Programs Professional, Safe and Respectful Learning Environments – Presented a broad overview in regard to SB504 requirements, regulations, changes in procedures, reporting requirements, etc. She also detailed some of the responsibilities of the newly established Office of Safe and Respectful Learning Environments within the NDE. These duties included an investigative unit for complaints, maintaining a 24 hour statewide hotline and internet website to report bullying violations, maintain information about anti-bullying efforts and organizations, provide training, and establish procedures to receive complaints. Members asked about the changes in the definition of bullying. Ms. Blakely read the previous and current bullying definitions.

Chair Corrales – Reiterated that parents have been empowered through numerous pieces of legislation. She encouraged Council members to support everyone they talk to become more familiar with their rights and to become engaged and involved with their schools.

Agenda Item #8 - Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement Updates (Original Agenda Item #6) Information and discussion regarding Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement current activities, goals, policies and procedures. *(Information/Discussion)* Rose Avila, NDE Education Program Professional, Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement

Rose Avila – Presented tentative PIFE Council meeting dates for upcoming year. They must be voted on and approved. She cautioned that conference rooms are difficult to book and changes may not be able to be

accommodated. She then displayed the new PIFE website and format. Rose next discussed the PIFE Council budget for this year of \$4,717. She suggested that it may be agendaized for the next meeting to determine how this money may be spent. She advised the Council that she will be attending the Harvard Institute for Family Research. It is the forerunner as the National Research Center for Family and Community Engagement and they have the top researchers working for them. She also mentioned that many of the states who attend this conference often do so in teams.

Dena Durish – Stated that during the last meeting members had questions about gifts and donations. She read an email response from DAG Greg Ott in reference to the processes and approvals involved in receipt / acceptance of gifts or donations. She also expounded upon budget process and expenditures as they effect the current biennium budget allocations.

Chair Corrales - Asked the Council members present to check their calendars and enter the proposed Council meeting dates now and to positively affirm availability to Laurie within the next week to determine quorum. In regard to the budget, she asked for estimated charges for all Council members to travel to meet face-to-face once or twice per year in each region.

Dena Durish – Offered information for consideration in regard to the state and NDE travel policy as it could affect Council budget, possible travel limitations, mileage requests, etc.

Chair Corrales – Moved the discussion to previous Item #8 National Family and Community Engagement Conference.

Agenda Item #9 - National Family and Community Engagement Conference (Original Agenda Item #8)
Update regarding recent conference attended by Jennifer Hoy and Rose Avila (*Information/Discussion*) Jennifer Hoy, Council Member and Rose Avila, NDE Education Program Professional, Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement

Rose Avila – Directed members to Attachment #8 slide presentation. She gave an overview of the conference session that she found most beneficial, which included a state leaders meeting with the U.S. Department of Education representatives from Libby Duggins’ office. The DOE participants discussed new initiatives and legislation, the shifting focus of family engagement, and changes at the federal level. They focused on expansion of collaboration between the states, and heard state representative input on how to better work with the federal DOE. She added that there was much sharing of information between states as to effective practices to build parent involvement.

Member Hoy – Discussed her take-away ideas from the conference which were that parent involvement needs to be high impact involvement; strategic engagement over the period of the whole year; asking the question... are you building the relationship between the family and the school building – not necessarily the teachers, but the school and the community; meaningful communication leading to engagement – not just the principal talking in front of a large group; providing training to all school staff as to how to build parent engagement; as a Council we need to create a way to evaluate each districts’ compliance to our policy with development of a rubric or some other mechanism.

Rose Avila – Spoke about several different focuses of the conference. There were an abundance of sessions in regard to how different levels of organizations have implemented the Dual Capacity Framework; giving families and students voice – every morning plenary had student / parent input; shared resources and models from entities throughout the country; building leadership and capacity among both educators and families; empowering parents to advocate for their children and family; and linking family engagement to academic goals, and changing the parents’ knowledge and skills about how to support their child at home. She also attended a workshop by Ann Henderson, co-author of the book Beyond the Bake Sale.

Member Hoy – Continued by describing additional topics on which national experts presented. They spoke on topics of involvement vs. engagement; academic parent / teacher teams; and specific strategies with which to work to engage families. Washoe County School District Office of Parent Involvement also presented at the conference. Comments from those who attended were that it was top rate, one of the best presentations, had the best content, and the most practical information that could be translated to other states.

Chair Corrales – Asked for any additional questions from members. She commented that it is important to see that best practices from these and other opportunities are being disseminated throughout the state to change the culture at the building level. The goal of the Council work is to have parents and students appear at a Council meeting to tell how the work in which we are engaged made a difference in their lives. She moved discussion to Future Agenda Items #10.

Agenda Item #10 - Future Agenda Items (Information/Discussion) Denette Corrales, Council Chair

Chair Corrales – Asked to have Open Meeting Law “101” presented at the next meeting by DAG Ott; act to solidify the meeting dates; discussion as to how Council budget can / will be spent most effectively; allow more time (at least an hour) for legislative updates and progress discussion; approval of April minutes; and conduct election for new vice chair. Chair asked members to plan for these meetings to be full day as we move forward. The next meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2015. She opened the floor for public comment from Carson City and Las Vegas.

Agenda Item #11 - Public Comment #2

Public comment will be taken during this agenda item on any matter within the Council’s jurisdiction, control, or advisory power. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item until the matter is included on an agenda as an item on which action may be taken. The chair of the Advisory Council on Parental Involvement and Family Engagement will impose a time limit of three minutes.

No public comment.

Agenda Item #12 - Adjournment

Chair Corrales – Adjourned the meeting at 12:16 pm.